

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A system for recording at least one message associated with a prepaid telephone calling card, comprising:

a data storage system [for storing] configured to store data corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card and [the] related to [a] an audio message service associated with the prepaid telephone calling card; and

a prepaid telephone calling card processing system coupled to said data storage system and configured to:

receive a request, over a telephone network, to record the at least one message during a service setup call [over a telephone network], [and]

initiate the recording of the at least one [to cause the] message [to be recorded] during [said] the service setup call,

receive audio data associated with the prepaid telephone calling card,

record the audio data in the at least one audio message, and

suspend the recording of the at least one message when the received audio data indicates a prescribed period of silence.

5. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said prepaid telephone calling card processing system [causes the] initiates the recording of the at least one message [to be recorded] within said data storage system in accordance with a card identifier corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card.

A3 7. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a voice response system coupled to said prepaid calling card processing system and configured to prompt a caller to record the at least one message via at least one voice prompt during said service setup call over [said] the telephone network.

8. (Amended) A method for recording at least one message associated with a prepaid telephone calling card, comprising [the steps of]:

storing data corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card and the at least one message;

A4 receiving, over a telephone network, [a request to record the message] a prepaid telephone calling card access code during a service setup call; [over a telephone network; and]

determining, based on the received access code, whether the prepaid telephone calling card comprises a first type of card;

if the prepaid telephone calling card comprises the first type of card, initiating the recording of the at least one [causing the] message [to be recorded] during [said] the service setup call [and the message to be played back during an access call related to use of the prepaid telephone calling card]; and

if the prepaid telephone calling card does not comprise the first type of card, directing a caller associated with the service setup call to call a first telephone number.

412. (Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein [said causing step further comprises the step of recording] the at least one message is recorded in accordance with a card identifier corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card.

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13. (Amended) The method according to claim 9, [wherein the] further comprising:
[message stored during said causing step is to be played back] automatically playing back the
at least one message during an access call related to the prepaid telephone calling card.

17. (Amended) A system for facilitating the use of a prepaid telephone calling card, comprising:

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a data storage system [storing] configured to store data corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card and to store at least one message related to the prepaid telephone calling card; and

a prepaid telephone calling card processing system coupled to said data storage system and configured to:

receive a request to [play] playback [said] the at least one message stored in relation to the prepaid telephone calling card during an access call over a telephone network, [and]

[to cause said] initiate the playback of the at least one message [to be played] during [said] the access call, and

delete the at least one message from the data storage system in response to the playback of the at least one message.

22. (Amended) The system according to claim 17, wherein said prepaid telephone calling card processing system [causes said message to be played back] initiates the play back of the at least one message in accordance with a card identifier corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card.

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23. (Amended) The system according to claim 17, further comprising a voice data storage facility coupled to said prepaid telephone calling card processing system and to said data storage system, [and] the voice data storage facility operative to allow [said] the at least one message to be played back in accordance with a card identifier corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card.

24. (Amended) The system according to claim 17, further comprising a voice response system coupled to the prepaid calling card processing system, the voice response system [and] configured to prompt a caller with at least one voice prompt related to the [automatic] playback of [said] the at least one message during [said] the access call.

25. (Amended) A method for facilitating the use of a prepaid telephone calling card, comprising [the steps of]:

storing data corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card;

receiving at least one audio message affiliated with [and to at least one message

related to] the prepaid telephone calling card;

receiving a call access request, [to automatically play said message stored in relation to the prepaid telephone calling card during an access call] associated with the prepaid telephone calling card, over a telephone network; and
automatically initiating playback of the [causing said] at least one audio message [to be played during said access call] responsive to the call access request.

A8 27. (Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein [said causing step causes said message to be played back] the playback is initiated in accordance with a card identifier corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card.

Please add the following claims:

A9 28. A method for facilitating the use of a prepaid telephone calling card, comprising:
receiving a call access request, associated with the prepaid telephone calling card,
over a telephone network;
determining if the prepaid telephone calling card is an audio message type calling card;
initiating playback of the at least one audio message affiliated with the prepaid telephone calling card if the prepaid telephone calling card comprises an audio message type calling card; and
initiating a call in response to the call access request if the prepaid telephone calling card does not comprise an audio message type calling card.

29. A method for facilitating the use of a prepaid telephone calling card, comprising:
receiving a call access request, associated with the prepaid telephone calling card,
over a telephone network;
determining if at least one audio message affiliated with the prepaid telephone calling
card has previously been stored;
initiating playback of the at least one audio message if the at least one audio message
has previously been stored; and
initiating playback of an audio message unaffiliated with the prepaid telephone
calling card if the at least one audio message has not previously been stored.

30. A system for facilitating the use of a prepaid telephone calling card, comprising:
a data storage system configured to store data corresponding to the prepaid telephone
calling card and to store at least one message related to the prepaid telephone calling card;
and
a prepaid telephone calling card processing system coupled to said data storage
system and configured to:

receive a request to play the at least one message stored in relation to the
prepaid telephone calling card during an access call over a telephone network,
initiate the playback of the at least one message during the access call,
determine a number of times the at least one message has been played back,
and
delete the at least one message from the data storage system responsive to the
determination of the number of times the at least one message has been played back.

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A method for recording purchase preferences of an individual associated with a prepaid telephone calling card, comprising:

receiving, over a telephone network, an access code associated with the prepaid telephone calling card;

requesting purchase preference information of the individual;

receiving audio data related to the purchase preference information; and

recording the audio data as an audio message for playback during an access call related to the use of the prepaid telephone calling card.

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A method relating to the purchase preferences of an individual associated with a prepaid telephone calling card, comprising:

storing data corresponding to the prepaid telephone calling card and at least one audio message related to purchase preferences of the individual associated with the prepaid telephone calling card;

receiving, over a telephone network, a request to play the at least one audio message during an access call; and

initiating playback of the at least one audio message during the access call.--

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The specification has been amended to improve form. Claims 14-16 have been canceled; claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 17, 22-25 and 27 have been amended; and claims 28-32 have been added herewith. Claims 1-13 and 17-32 are